

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
February 20, 2008

MINUTES – Meeting in Newton City Hall – Cafeteria

PRESENT: Jane Brown, Rob Caruso, Herb Cole Jini Fairley, Linda Hiller, Rosemary Larking (Acting Chair)
REGRETS: Doug Sweet (Co-Chair), Lucie Chansky, Jeff Hutter, Barbara Lischinsky, Girard Plante, Heather Platt, Jason Rosenberg, Janna Zwerner (Co-Chair)
STAFF: Beverly Droz
GUESTS: none

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The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.
The meeting was chaired by Rosemary Larking, Acting Chair.

The minutes of the 1/16/08 meeting were accepted.

(Bev noted that 3 members had emailed their vote to approve the minutes, for a total of 9.)

Door Opener for 82 Lincoln Street

Lowell previously sent to the MCPD a letter from Craig Manseau, the Executive Secretary of the Elections Commission, requesting funds to have an automatic door opener installed on the entrance to the Hyde Community Center polling place. Many of the disabled residents at 82 Lincoln Street visit the Hyde Community Center in addition to voting at that polling place. People who cannot operate the door are dependent on a doorbell to call for help in entering the Center, but a doorbell is not always heard.

The estimate for the full price of the door opener and the installation costs, including electrical wiring to tie into the timer that locks and unlocks the door is \$3,782.85, which is not expensive when compared to other installations we've done. Lowell recommends that an automatic door opener is the right solution for that location and that MCPD approve this at the February 20 meeting.

Bev noted that she had notified members to vote if they could not be present at tonight's meeting, and 6 members responded that they approved the vote for the door opener.

A motion by Herb Cole, 2nd by Jane to approve door opener, all approved.

Suggested Change to ABB Regulations:

Rob brought a copy of the Architectural Access Board's 521-CMR regulations. He reported that at the AAB training that he, Doug and Bev attended on 2/ 4/08, Rob asked Tom Hopkins why the striped access aisle next to HP spaces doesn't say "No Parking". Hopkins suggested that our Committee submit proposed language for it for the AAB to consider before they re-issue the regulations.

Rob had printed out section 23.4 dealing with parking and he proposed two (2) options of "no parking" language that could be added.

The 1st option would be added to the existing section **23.4.6-e** which currently reads:

Access aisles shall be clearly marked by means of diagonal stripes.

The additional wording to this section would read:

"...and with the words "NO PARKING" in upper case letters 5" tall (5" = 127mm) and is measured using an upper case X in a contrasting color within the access aisle. See Fig. 231, 23b, 23c."

The 2nd option could be a new section following section 23.4.6-e and would read:

23.4.6-f *“ Access aisle shall also be clearly marked by the words “NO PARKING” in upper case letters 5” tall (5” = 127mm) and is measured using an upper case X in a contrasting color within the access aisle. See Fig. 231, 23b, 23c.”*

It was noted that Bill #3839 is pending before the House in April and hopefully will pass. It has stiff penalties for parking on the striped access aisle.

Herb asked if there is any standard color that should be used. Rob says the regulations don't specify color, but that it has to be a contrasting color.

Linda suggested the large P with a slash thru it, which Jini said is a recognized symbol. There was discussion about using the large P but members agreed that the “No Parking” lettering on the aisle would be most effective. Rosemary asked when will the AAB review their regulations and Rob said in the summer.

Rob made a motion that MCPD propose the language of option 1 (continued wording to 23.4.6-e) to AAB for them to adopt it and Herb 2nd the motion. All members voted in favor and the motion was accepted.

AAB Training

Linda brought up concerns about the notices from ISD that list the MCPD as a co-sponsor of the AAB trainings. She pointed out that none of us knew about the training nor our co-sponsorship of it until just before the training was to happen. Members expressed concern that the notice was too short for many people attend, and that it had not been well advertised, yet it was such a worthwhile seminar.

A second concern was that in terms of co-sponsoring it, we were not involved, just notified. Our members didn't know what the program was about. Rob described that it was an in-depth forum with a Power Point Presentation. A large booklet was given out and many questions were answered. There were only about 20-25 people in attendance.

Bev noted that the Fair Housing Task Force (FHTF) has been working on these issues for a long time, and has a 18-month plan for multiple trainings to occur with different stakeholders. The FHTF was disappointed to be left out of the program planning and also concerned about the short notice.

There was discussion about Committee sponsoring future events. Jini made a motion that the Committee needs ample notice to be an active participant for an event and the Committee wants to vote on whether or not they co-sponsor any type of program or event. Rob 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm.

The next meeting will be Monday March 17th at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.